United Nations A/RES/62/196

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 54 (*h*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/419/Add.8)*]

62/196. Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003 and 60/198 of 22 December 2005,

Reaffirming chapter 13 of Agenda 21[1] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting the Bishkek Mountain Platform,[3] the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

Noting also the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ("Mountain Partnership"), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of forty-eight countries, fifteen intergovernmental organizations and eighty-three organizations from major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting further the conclusions of the global meetings of the members of the Mountain Partnership, held, respectively, in Merano, Italy, in October 2003 and in Cusco, Peru, in October 2004, and the first Andean Meeting of the Andean Initiative, held in San Miguel Tucuman, Argentina, in September 2007,

---

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/C.2/57/7, annex.

Noting the outcome of the meeting of the Adelboden Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions, which met in Rome from 1 to 3 October 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development;[4]

2. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of the sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, and recognizes the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity and other natural resources, including timber and minerals, as providers of some sources of renewable energy, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, all of which generate positive, unaccounted economic benefits;

3. *Recognizes* that mountains provide indications of global climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that may impact major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena;

4. *Recognizes also* that sustainable mountain development is a key component in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in many regions of the world;

5. *Notes with concern* that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems, and that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest in a given country;

6. *Encourages* Governments to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches in their sustainable development strategies, and to promote integrated approaches to policies related to sustainable development in mountain regions;

7. *Also encourages* Governments to integrate mountain sustainable development in national, regional and global policymaking and development strategies, including through incorporating mountain-specific requirements in sustainable development policies or through specific mountain policies;

8. *Notes* that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and other forms of watershed degradation, the occurrence of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining, agriculture and the consequences of global climate change are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Underlines* the importance of sustainable forest management, the avoidance of deforestation, as well as the restoration of lost and degraded forest ecosystems of mountains in order to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators;

[4] A/62/292.

10. *Notes* that sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the regional economy;

11. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries, and urges the international community to take concrete steps to support national and regional efforts to ensure the sustainable development of mountains;

12. *Encourages* Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to improve the awareness, preparedness and infrastructure to cope with the increasing impact of disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as landslides, debris flow and earthquakes;

13. *Encourages* Governments, with the collaboration of the scientific community, mountain communities and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate, to study, with a view to promoting sustainable mountain development, the specific concerns of mountain communities, including the effects of global climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate sustainable adaptation strategies to cope with the adverse effects of climate change;

14. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

15. *Encourages* the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional levels, where appropriate, to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

16. *Also encourages* the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

17. *Underlines* the need for improved access to resources, including land, for women in mountain regions as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

18. *Encourages*, in this regard, Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including, inter alia, gender disaggregated indicators, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

19. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the

importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

20. *Underscores* the need to take into account relevant articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity;[5]

21. *Recognizes* that many developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other forms of collaborative approaches;

22. *Notes* that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high level of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship facing mountain communities;

23. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions, particularly in developing countries;

24. *Underlines* the importance for sustainable development in mountains of exploring a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microcredit and microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, and support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small- and medium-sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

25. *Notes* that public awareness needs to be raised with respect to the positive and unaccounted economic benefits that mountains provide, and underlines the importance of enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and of developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

26. *Recalls with satisfaction* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a programme of work on mountain biological diversity,[6] the overall purpose of which is the significant reduction of the loss of mountain biological diversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels, and its implementation, which aims at making a significant contribution to poverty eradication in mountain regions;

27. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches, where the States concerned agree, to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[6] UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, decision VII/27, annex.

28. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, that the Convention on the Protection of the Alps [7] promotes constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, as well as its Declaration on Population and Culture;

29. *Also notes with appreciation* the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians,[8] adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

30. *Further notes with appreciation* the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which promotes transboundary cooperation among eight regional member countries of the Himalaya Hindu Kush region to foster action and change for overcoming mountain peoples' economic, social and physical vulnerability;

31. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the statement of the Adelboden Group in promoting specific policies, appropriate institutions and processes for mountain regions, and the positive, unaccounted economic benefits they provide;

32. *Stresses* the importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and promoting educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of challenges to and best practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and in the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

33. *Encourages* the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change created by the International Year of Mountains in 2002 and the opportunity provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December;

34. *Also encourages* Member States to collect and produce information and to establish databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research, programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

35. *Further encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21,[1] including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[2] taking into account the efforts of the Inter-Agency Group on Mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1917, No. 32724.

[8] Available from www.carpathianconvention.org/text.htm.

and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

36. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, invites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider participating actively in the Mountain Partnership to increase its value added, and invites the Partnership secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth session in 2008, including in regard to the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa;

37. *Notes with appreciation* in this context the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, [9] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[10] the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

38. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Kyrgyzstan to host a second Bishkek Global Mountain Summit in October 2009, and of the invitation to Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to take part in such a summit;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under a sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

78th plenary meeting
19 December 2007

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[10] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 54 (*i*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/419/Add.9)*]

62/197. Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003 and 60/199 of 22 December 2005, on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Noting that the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 made a contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources of energy can play in the global energy supply,

Reiterating the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and of Agenda 21,[3] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] concerning energy for sustainable development,

Recalling the holding of the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference on 7 and 8 November 2005, in follow-up to the International Conference for Renewable Energies, held in Bonn, Germany, from 1 to 4 June 2004, and noting the offer of the Government of the United States of America to convene the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference from 6 to 8 March 2008,

Welcoming initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for

[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer important options for the provision of energy for sustainable development and increased access to modern energy services,

Noting that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

Recognizing the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

Noting that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential, and underscoring in this regard the need to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

Emphasizing the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Acknowledging that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Welcoming efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

[5] A/62/208.

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[4] as the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. *Also emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

6. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

9. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in their efforts to develop and utilize energy resources, including new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance;

10. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

11. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

14. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".

78th plenary meeting
19 December 2007

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 55

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/420)*]

62/198. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 57/275 of 20 December 2002, 58/226 and 58/227 of 23 December 2003, 59/239 of 22 December 2004, 60/203 of 22 December 2005 and 61/206 of 20 December 2006,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003 and Council decisions 2004/300 of 23 July 2004, 2005/298 of 26 July 2005, 2006/247 of 27 July 2006 and 2007/249 of 26 July 2007,

Recalling the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[2] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda,[3] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[4] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[5]

---

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] which calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility,

Recognizing the significance of the urban dimension of poverty eradication and the need to integrate water and sanitation and other issues within a comprehensive framework for sustainable urbanization,

Recognizing also the importance of decentralization policies for achieving sustainable human settlements development in line with the Habitat Agenda and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the importance of the seminal findings on the scale and pace of the urbanization of poverty and deprivation contained in the report entitled *State of the World's Cities 2006–2007: the Millennium Development Goals and Urban Sustainability – 30 Years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda*[7] and the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2007: Enhancing Urban Safety and Security*,[8]

Recognizing the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements,

Conscious of the unique opportunity provided by the Cities Without Slums Initiative mentioned in the Millennium Declaration for realizing economies of scale and substantial multiplier effects in helping to attain the other internationally agreed development goals,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of China and the city of Nanjing to host the fourth session of the World Urban Forum from 13 to 17 October 2008,

Recognizing the need for UN-Habitat to sharpen its focus on all areas within its mandate,

Recognizing also the continued need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation,

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts of UN-Habitat towards more sustainable post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction and recovery through its participation in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs,

Noting the efforts of UN-Habitat in strengthening its collaboration with the World Bank, the regional development banks and domestic financial institutions, ensuring that its policy advisory and capacity-building activities leverage

[6] See resolution 60/1.

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.III.Q.3.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.III.Q.1.

investment finance to improve water and sanitation as an entry point to the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[9] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[10]

2. *Encourages* Governments to consider an enhanced approach to achieving the Cities Without Slums Initiative mentioned in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] by upgrading existing slums and creating policies and programmes, according to national circumstances, to forestall the growth of future slums, and in this regard invites the international donor community and multilateral and regional development banks to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through increased voluntary financial assistance;

3. *Recognizes* that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[3] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[4] and the Millennium Declaration, and stresses the need for the international community to implement fully its commitment to support Governments of developing countries in their efforts to develop inclusive urban development and urban poverty reduction strategies, through the provision of the requisite resources, capacity-building, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the creation of an international enabling environment;

4. *Welcomes* the vision, sharpened thematic focus and emphasis on management excellence of the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013,[11] and encourages ongoing efforts towards its effective implementation, including through improvements in the internal operations and programme management of UN-Habitat;

5. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of UN-Habitat to develop a results-based and less fragmented budget structure with a view to securing maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency in programme delivery regardless of funding source;

6. *Takes note* of the decision of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to enable UN-Habitat to undertake from 2007 to 2011 a four-year phase of experimental reimbursable seeding operations and other innovative financing arrangements, as defined in Governing Council resolution 21/10,[12] bearing in mind the provisions of the special annex for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation appended by the Secretary-General to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,[13] and taking into consideration the relevant elements of the operational procedures and guidelines;

[9] E/2007/58.

[10] A/62/219.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/62/8), annex I.B, resolution 21/2.

[12] Ibid., annex I.B.

[13] ST/SGB/2006/8.

7. *Notes* the approval by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat of the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities,[14] and requests UN-Habitat to assist interested Governments in adapting the guidelines to their national contexts, where appropriate, and in further developing tools and indicators as part of its support for the application of the guidelines, bearing in mind that the guidelines do not constitute a uniform or rigid blueprint applicable to all States Members of the United Nations;

8. *Encourages* relevant United Nations bodies and other international and regional organizations to mainstream the guiding principles on access to basic services for all,[15] within the context of human settlements, in their development policies and programmes, and requests UN-Habitat to assist interested Governments in adapting the guiding principles and any guidelines adopted by the Governing Council to their national contexts, where appropriate;

9. *Encourages* Governments to promote the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization as a major contribution to mitigating the causes of climate change, adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing risks and vulnerabilities in a rapidly urbanizing world, including human settlements in fragile ecosystems, and invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

10. *Calls for* continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions, and invites Governments in a position to do so to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support programme implementation;

11. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

12. *Also invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to support the experimental reimbursable seeding operations trust fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[2] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;[6]

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

15. *Acknowledges* contributions of the regional consultative initiatives, including conferences of ministers in the area of human settlements, for the

---

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/62/8), annex I.B, resolution 21/3.

[15] Ibid., resolution 21/4.

implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and invites the international community to continue to support such efforts and the implementation of the outcomes of those initiatives;

16. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to strengthen efforts to coordinate and implement its normative and operational activities through the enhanced normative and operational framework elaborated in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, reinforcing its normative activities, and invites all countries in a position to do so to support the activities of UN-Habitat in this regard;

17. *Requests* UN-Habitat to promote, in consultation with national Governments, urban poverty reduction within the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment and to align its policy advisory and capacity-building activities with the World Bank, regional development banks, other financial institutions, regional organizations and other relevant partners to field-test innovative policies, practices and pilot projects in order to mobilize resources to increase the supply of affordable credit for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development in developing countries;

18. *Also requests* UN-Habitat to encourage collaboration among all the Habitat Agenda partners on analytical policy work, including the preparation of its flagship reports and monitoring activities, and to identify opportunities for strengthening joint programmes of work on capacity-building for the reduction of urban poverty, including on "localizing the Millennium Development Goals";

19. *Reiterates its invitation* to all Governments to participate actively in the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, and invites donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including women and young people, in the Forum;

20. *Requests* UN-Habitat, through its involvement in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and through contacts with relevant United Nations agencies and partners in the field, to promote the early involvement of human settlements experts in the assessment and development of prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to support the efforts of developing countries affected by natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies;

21. *Also requests* UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to continue to work closely with other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, and strongly reiterates its invitation to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to consider including UN-Habitat in its membership, acknowledging the important role and contribution of UN-Habitat in supporting the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development;

22. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen or establish, as appropriate, broad-based national Habitat committees with a view to mainstreaming sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction in their respective national development strategies;

23. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to include in its high-level discussions the issues of sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum-upgrading, including access to basic services for all and further mainstreaming access by the poor to water and sanitation as a key contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

78th plenary meeting
19 December 2007